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Report from Para—Plague in 1903 and 1904—Effectual measures for combating the disease.

Consul Ayme reports, March 2, as follows:

The first case of plague occurred early in November of last year. There have been no cases since February 22. During these four months there have been 29 cases in all, thus distributed: November, 2; December, 2; January, 11, and February, 14. Of these 29 cases 19 were true bubonic plague and 10 were of the pneumonic form.

Of the 29 persons attacked, 21 received the Yersin serum treatment, and 8 were not treated at all. All of these 8 died. Five of the 8 suffered from the bubonic and 3 from the pneumonic form of the disease.

Of the 21 cases treated, 7 were of the pneumonic and 14 of the bubonic form. Seven cases resulted fatally, 4 from the pneumonic and 3 from the bubonic form. There were 14 recoveries, 11 from the bubonic and 3 from the pneumonic form.

The percentage of recoveries in all cases was therefore 66 per cent; in pure bubonic plague, 80 per cent.

From the very outset the most vigorous and effectual methods were, and are still, employed to combat the disease. The municipal authorities of Para are certainly deserving of the highest praise. Their task was the more easy as the city of Para is remarkably clean. It is a very well drained city; its streets are well paved; its sewerage system is good; the almost daily rains and the daily strong equatorial east winds keep it remarkably sweet and clean. Indeed, this is one of the first things to attract one's attention on arrival. It is also a well policed city.

The board of health took most energetic measures. Cases were promptly isolated and treated, and not merely the house but the whole neighborhood was rigidly disinfected. It is well known that the disease is spread by rats, and bounties were at once offered for all dead rats. These were promptly examined, and what was done may be judged from the following note from this morning's paper:

> Infected rats having been found in the business house of Messrs. A. B. de Brito & Co., in Trese de Maio street, the superintendent of health ordered Drs. Cruz Moreira, Azevedo Ribeiro, Virgilio Mendonca, Lindolphe Abreu, and Bernardo Rutowitcz to proceed to the inoculation of the infected block. In conformity with this order there were inoculated in that street 302 persons.

In addition to this wholesale inoculation, the streets and every room in every house of the block are most thoroughly disinfected, and this disinfection is repeated several times until the health board is satisfied that there is no further danger. Two or three hundred persons have been inoculated daily for the last three months, and tons of disinfectants have been used. Street sprinklers, fire engines, and the police and fire brigades have been utilized in this work. No steamer plying on the river is allowed to leave the port unless every person on board has been inoculated. I believe that Para has successfully met the invasion of plague, and deserves great credit therefor.